

WHEREAS, The Leon County Board of County Commissioners expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance and expertise provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and,

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that the FWC has grant funds for lake restoration and is willing to give highest priority to an in-lake restoration project for Lake Munson; and

WHEREAS, Although Leon County has already invested a considerable amount of money in lake Munson, it cannot be fully restored until the sediment deposits are removed from the lake bottom; and

WHEREAS, If these deposits were removed, the lake would be cleaner and deeper, making it a wonderful recreational area for boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing; and

WHEREAS, To obtain the FWC funding, the County would like to request that the FWC dedicate the funding to sediment removal in Lake Munson, allow the FWC to conduct the project, and share in the costs of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that

The Board request the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission give priority funding to the restoration of Lake Munson with a sediment removal project. The Board also hereby gives its approval for the Chairman to sign a letter to Mr. Ed Moyer, Director of the Division of Fresh Water Fisheries with the FWC, which allows the Chairman to enter into discussions with the FWC on cooperation and matching funding.

DATED this 26th day of AUGUST, A.D., 2003.

August 22, 2003

Mr. Ed Moyer, Director
Division of Fresh Water Fisheries
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

Dear Mr. Moyer:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, I want to express my deep appreciation for the assistance and expertise provided by Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on the recent restoration projects on Lake Jackson, lake Iamonia, Lake Lafayette, and Lake Henrietta/Munson Slough. Though many agencies have worked together to accomplish the common goal of improving these important aquatic systems, it is obvious to all that the FWC has the necessary experience for effective aquatic habitat enhancement. No wonder FWC is receiving national attention in lake restoration!

Most of the large, natural lakes in the Florida Panhandle are concentrated in Leon County. Because our citizens cherish these important natural features, Leon County boasts some of the most progressive lake ordinances in the state. We recognize that this degree of protection creates some additional paperwork on local projects. However, we are prepared to waive fees and grant variances in order to expedite approved lake restoration projects conducted by your agency.

Leon County is now committed to making Lake Munson a recreational centerpiece for the Southside Area. Thanks in part to FWC's funding of the Lake Henrietta/Munson Slough Project, the restoration of this 255-acre cypress lake is closer to becoming a reality. Biologists agree that Munson will always be nutrient-rich, but they also concur that such productivity can be channeled into an impressive sport fishery. We understand that it can take 2-3 years for FWC funding to become available but would like to request that FWC consider becoming the lead agency on the in-lake restoration of Lake Munson. We would like to enter into discussions with you on what levels of cooperation and matching funding would be needed to accomplish this goal.

We look forward to working with FWC to complete the restoration of Lake Munson and would like to meet with you and your staff in the near future. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for all that you do to protect and restore Florida's lakes.

Sincerely,

Tony Grippa
Chairman, Leon County Commission